

Baker May Yet Play Role of Cincinnati

Time Will Tell Whether Bleachers Can Lure Him from the Plough.

HUSTON WOULD LIKE HOME RUN KING

Frank Parrell Misses His Ball Team and May Put a Fed Club at Kingsbridge.

By HEYWOOD BROWN.
It looks as though remorse had gripped Home Run Baker. At any rate, the man who used to break fences has settled down to mend them.

"He's plumb sick of travelling," said Connie Mack, when he announced the retirement of the great third baseman. "He just wants to farm and do nothing else."

Baker is less than twenty-nine, and he may find it extremely easy to plough a furrow to the end of a field as well as in his way, but no matter how admirably the task is performed no thousand will leap up to cheer the farmer. The hum and the outcry of the bleachers may be low in the scale of harmony, but for a long summer symphony it must be more agreeable music than the conventional caw-caw of the crows.

The sight of ripening radish, growing grain or a young turnip may warm the heart of the husbandman, but it can hardly furnish the vibrations or the thrills of a smash to the right field bleachers.

Precedent is against Baker. In days of old there was a big leaguer in the city of Rome, who quit the paths of glory for the farm, and when he stated that he would never come back, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus was his name. But for all his protestations, Cincinnatus did come back to the big show, and so great was his haste that he left his plow and horses in the middle of the field. Posteriority has paid this hero the doubtful compliment of naming the Reds after him.

Many are moved already by recent events of the star's retirement. Hearing yesterday of the star's retirement, Captain Till Huston asked, "How old is Baker?" and hearing that he was still well within the limits of baseball efficiency, he declared, "He would make a pretty good investment for us."

St. Louis sent word from Colonel Hedges that the St. Louis Browns would bid high to keep the diamond. The call of the farmer is loud and insistent if it is to drown the many voices which the great third baseman receives from now on until the beginning of the baseball and the ploughing season.

If J. Franklin Baker is sincere in his announced intention of retiring he lacks the dramatic instinct. His exit is not well timed. From the theatrical point of view he would have done much better to have retired in 1911 after his two home runs in the world series, or in 1912 when he made still another circuit smash against the Giants.

Against the Braves he was distinctly a disappointment. It was not that he played badly for, as a matter of fact, he performed exceptionally well, but he could not hit two home runs in the same game of baseball two doubles do not equal one home run. In fielding he was never finer, for he had twenty-five chances without an error, but the heart of the fan must be reached through the hit column.

Frank Farrell, according to a rumor prevalent yesterday, just didn't get along with the baseball team. It was learned yesterday that Mr. Farrell and Tom Foley, the well known politician, conferred with Jim Gilmore, at the Hotel Biltmore on Tuesday. Mr. Farrell still has an option on the Kingsbridge property at 225th Street, and it is understood that he and Mr. Foley discussed the possibility of putting a Federal League team there.

The sole owner of the Yankees was not pleased at the treatment which he received when he was forced to sell out of the American League, and this feeling might add to his desire to get back in the game with rival organization. In corroboration of the story it was pointed out that Arthur Irvin had a long conference with Robert T. Ward, in Chicago, on the heading of the baseball strike. According to the well known baseball man Irvin acted at that time in the capacity of a representative of Mr. Farrell and his Yankees.

Harry Sinclair, backer of the floating Federal franchise, has salled for South America. Pat Powers will endeavor to bring the craft to land before the return of his associate.

Rube Marquard was a caller yesterday at the offices of the Giants and was informed that the New York National League Baseball Club expected him to report for spring training. Marquard did not commit himself as to his intentions. Another caller was Willie Shafer, but he was simply in for his respects, for he assured John Foster that he had no intention of returning to the national game.

Now we understand why baseball players are glad to get away from Philadelphia. In a story about the dinner given by the sporting writers of the *Quaker City*, Bill Donnan, Pat Moran and Nat Lajoie, "The Philadelphia North American" says: "Bill Donnan surprised the company with a pleasant after dinner speech."

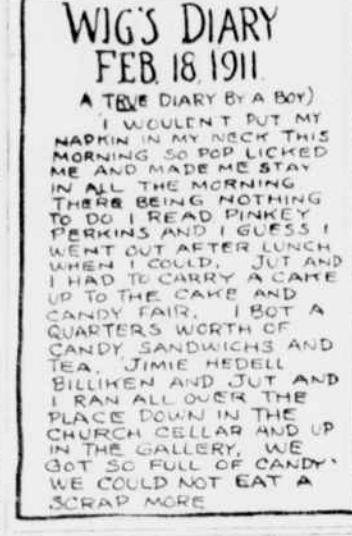
J. A. Conklyn, of the Bronx, who "rides" us when we make mistakes about baseball, sends us a pleasant letter, in which he informs us that he is six feet tall and weighs 215 pounds. Well, he has had a year, an inch and fifteen pounds advantage of him, and as we start for the training camp at Marlin, Tex., to-day, we hope to be in condition to meet our critics some time in April before the club offering the best inducements.

We can now tell the recruits from the ball players, thanks to a useful list which we received yesterday from a man who signs himself "Well Wisher."

Johnson Talks Ball on Pleasure Trip

San Francisco, Feb. 17.—President Ban Johnson of the American League and Charles A. Comiskey, owner of the Chicago Americans, arrived here yesterday on what they termed "strictly a pleasure trip."

"I do not believe the project of raising the Class AA leagues to the standard of the majors will be brought up again this year," said Johnson. "Personally I cannot see what good could come of such action. Has the step been taken, the Pacific Coast and International leagues would have been elevated, as well as the American Association."



SHEPPARD COACH OF MILLROSE A. A.

Peerless Mel to Handle Team That Goes to the Panama Fair.

Malvin W. Sheppard, once the world's greatest middle distance runner, holder of many world's records and former Olympic hero, set all rumors at rest about his retirement from competition in track athletics by signing a contract yesterday as a professional coach for the Millrose Athletic Association, which organization is composed of the employees of the John Wanamaker store in New York.

As a result of a conference yesterday with Val Dwyer, president of the Millrose A. A., and John J. McGowan, chairman of athletics, Sheppard agreed to take hold of the crack team of this organization, which has made phenomenal progress in athletic competition during its comparatively short career. This action was forecast in the Tribune several days ago.

Sheppard is still under the doctor's care as a result of a fall at the New York C. G. games in Madison Square Garden last week. It was at first feared that blood poisoning would set in in the nasty wound he received in his arm, but good medical treatment has now placed the old war horse past the danger point. Sheppard is going to remain indoors for a few days in order to rest up before taking up in earnest his new duties as coach of the Millrose A. A.

Sheppard's wonderful career of thirteen years on the track path has been the best possible training for him in his new vocation. Since resigning as a member of the Irish-American A. C. nearly a year ago he has been connected with the Millrose A. A. in an amateur capacity, and was responsible in a great measure for building up its present team of star athletes.

Sheppard's first goal will be the priming of a winning team to be sent by the Millrose A. A. to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in August.

NEW YORK BOWLERS GET GRIP ON TITLE

Take Three Games at Home, Increasing Its Lead in the League.

The New York Athletic Club drew further away in the championship race for the title of the Athletic Bowling League last night, and its lead over all others in capturing three games, the nearest competitor, visiting Newark Bay, took only the odd. This practically clinches the first prize for the Feuerky Foothers, although there is only the remote possibility of the team losing out.

None of the teams was able to exceed the thousand mark, outside of the New York, in combination in the first game, in which it tallied 181 pins. The N. Y. A. C. combination, the nearest competitor, visiting Newark Bay, took only the odd. This practically clinches the first prize for the Feuerky Foothers, although there is only the remote possibility of the team losing out.

Princeton's victory over Yale in New Haven, last night, made a tie in the series, which will necessitate a play-off between the two teams on Saturday night, at which time Queens University, the intercollegiate champions of Canada, also will play the St. Nicks at the local rink.

The scores follow:

NORTH END COLUMBIAN

Harper 123 126 Hill Baker 155 181 144

Austin 173 161 177 Downs 165 158 205

McGinnis 173 161 177 Edwards 165 158 205

Baldwin 164 164 164 Lewis 165 179 152

Chase 164 164 164 Hart 159 159 197

Total 885 886 Totals 889 887 878

NEWARK BAY NEBESVILLE

Young 176 176 176 Higginson 180 180 176

Miller 176 176 176 Neely 180 180 176

Smith 176 176 176 Nichols 180 180 176

Wright 176 176 176 Parsons 180 180 176

Total 885 886 Totals 889 887 868

MONTCLAIR COLUMBIA

Harper 183 187 J. Schuhmann 180 180 178

Austin 183 187 186 Schuhmann 178 180 178

McGinnis 183 187 186 Edwards 178 180 178

Baldwin 178 180 184 Lewis 180 180 184

Chase 178 180 184 Hart 180 180 184

Total 983 986 Totals 985 981 977

NEW YORK PASSAIC

Young 176 176 176 Ball 180 180 176

Miller 176 176 176 Neely 180 180 176

Smith 176 176 176 Nichols 180 180 176

Wright 176 176 176 Parsons 180 180 176

Total 885 886 Totals 889 887 868

Fordham Five Plays To-night.

The Fordham basketball team will meet the Catholic University five to-night at the new Brooklyn College gymnasium.

Kelley Puts Yankees Through Their First Hard Work at the Camp at Hot Springs.

By Telegraph to the Tribune.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 17.—In order to get into the condition required by Bill Donovan by the time he reports at Savannah, Ray Keating, who came South heavier than any other Yankee training here, has adopted heroic measures to reduce the superfluous avoirdupois picked up at Bridgeport last winter. Acting under the instructions of Joe Kelley, who has come as far to be a tall timstmaster, Keating has taken off eight pounds in two days.

Keating put the Yankees through a full day's course of training to-day for the first time, but laid special emphasis on his instructions to Keating. Ray went over the hills near here for a five-mile jaunt with the other players, but, unlike them, he was heavily bundled in extra shirts and sweaters. In the afternoon he went through a stiff workout with the other pitchers and catchers, and at the hotel he jumped on the scales and, when he had lost four pounds since morning,

Somebody Is Always Taking the Joy Out of Life

By BRIGGS



TIGER SEVEN WINS IN EXTRA PERIOD

Metropolitan Women Golfers Are Game at Palm Beach.

By Telegraph to the Tribune.

Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 17.—Metropolitan women golfers did exceptionally well in the annual women's championship of Florida. Miss Lillian B. Hyde, South Shore, the former Metropolitan champion, led the field of forty players with a card of 87, and captured the medal.

Miss Rosenthal, the national runner-up last year, was third, with 89, and she headed Miss Hyde for thirteen holes by a wide margin, only to have two sevens near the end run an otherwise pretty card.

Twelve Metropolitan women qualified to compete with seven in the championship sixteen and five in the second flight of eight.

Miss L. B. Hyde, South Shore, 87; Mrs. Milton Herold, Indianapolis, 88; Miss Blaine Rosenthal, Chicago, 89; Mrs. Ruth Pendleton, Philadelphia, 90; Mrs. S. Rosenblatt, New York, 90; Mrs. E. T. Moore, 91; Mrs. M. H. Holman, 92; Miss Alice Connors, 92; Mrs. D. M. Dill, 93; Mrs. N. H. Wilson, Marion Rock, 93; Mrs. Matilda Alexander, Allegheny, 93; Mrs. S. Irving Worcester, 93; Mrs. C. L. Larson, 94; Mrs. N. C. Work, Philadelphia, 94.

John T. Egan, Peerless Mel, a steady player, also played a scoreless game against a scoreless opponent.

Ford, the Princeton goal tender, saved several scores against the visitors, and, with Captain Peacock, stood out in Princeton's play. Peacock scored both of Princeton's goals, and he was a sure and dashing player on the defense.

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